



PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Alain BETHUNE

Group Art Unit: 1772

Application No.: 09/330,134

Examiner: A. Chevalier

Filed: June 11, 1999

Docket No.: 103602

For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A COATING SUCH AS A PAINT
OR A VARNISH

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 30, 2001, Applicant provisional elects Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a method of applying a coating. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all groups is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of the elected group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay

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and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-29 can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:SMS/sxb

Filed: April 30, 2001

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